HOW TO
DO AN OIL
CHANGE ON A CAR
WHAT YOU’LL NEED

- Shell LubeMatch or car manual
- Gloves
- Safety goggles
- Car Jack
- Jack Stands
- Adjustable wrench
- Drain pan
- Wipes
- Strap wrench
- Oil filter
- Oil
- Electric screwdriver
- Funnel

HANDY TIPS

- Before you start, check what engine oil is required by checking your car manual. Alternatively, go to our easy-to-use Shell LubeMatch tool online at http://www.shell.com/motorist/find-the-right-oil.html and simply enter the car’s registration plate to get the right Shell Helix motor oil that’s right for your car.
- Once you’re finished, find an official place to recycle the old oil. Local council-run recycling/refuge centres offer this free of charge.
1 GET READY

Before you start, make sure you drive around a bit to warm up the engine. Find a flat surface to park on and remember to apply the handbrake.

2 JACK UP THE CAR

Find your car’s jacking point and use the jack to raise the front. Slide the jack stands into place and raise them until it becomes a secondary support point.

3 DRAIN THE OIL TANK

At this point put on your safety goggles. Things are about to get a bit messy so you may want to put some gloves on and old clothes or overalls. Pop the bonnet and, to allow for a better flow of oil, unscrew and remove the oil filter cap from the top of the engine.

Slide under the car on your back, to find the oil drain plug. It’s a bolt on the bottom of the oil tank. In some vehicles you need to use a screwdriver to remove the engine guard to reach the oil drain plug. Position the drain pan underneath the oil drain plug before you unscrew it. Using an adjustable wrench, slowly loosen and unscrew the plug, rotating anti-clockwise.

Once removed, ensure you keep the oil drain plug in a safe place. Now grab a cup of tea or coffee while the oil fully drains, which can take 30-45 minutes.

Now screw the oil drain plug back into place, but don’t over tighten. Remove the drain pan from under the car, along with any other tools.
As the oil has now fully drained, you can change the oil filter. It helps to use a strap wrench, although you may be able to twist and release it yourself if it’s easily reachable. Locate the filter in the engine bay (which might be easier to locate under the car) and remove the existing filter by twisting anti-clockwise. Be ready for any residual oil drips.

Before screwing on the new filter, wipe a little bit of fresh oil around the seal. It’ll make it easier to remove next time. As you twist the new filter into place, make sure not to over tighten or cross the thread. Screw it in using a light touch and don’t force the filter on.

Confirm how much oil your engine requires by checking the car manual and then pour, using a funnel, the required amount of oil into the top of the engine, where you earlier removed the oil filter cap.
Once the new oil has been poured in, allow a moment for it to settle. Then remove the dipstick, wipe it clean and replace it. Almost immediately, take it back out and check the new oil level. Add further oil and repeat the checking process until the engine oil is registered as full on the dipstick.

Screw the oil filter cap back into place and make sure your engine bay is clear of tools, wipes and oil bottles, before closing the bonnet.

Start the vehicle and let it tick over for a few minutes for the oil to warm and circulate, enjoying the new smoother sound of the engine as it does. Then switch off the engine and after another couple of minutes re-check your oil level and add if necessary.
Now, make a note of the date and current vehicle mileage so you know when the next change is due. Or set up a reminder on the Shell app.